



STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



TankSmart: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is TankSmart?

TankSmart is Maine's program for training persons who operate underground oil storage facilities. It is a free, internet-based training service. The Department of Environmental Protection developed TankSmart to enable facility operators to train and be certified to properly operate and maintain their equipment in compliance with Maine's Ground Water Protection laws and the Department of Environmental Protection's Rules for Underground Oil Storage Facilities.

2. Why was TankSmart created?

Underground oil storage facilities can be sources of leaks and spills which put the environment and public health at risk from petroleum discharges. A facility that is operated and maintained by a properly trained person is less likely to have an accidental release of petroleum to the environment. The 2005 Federal Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act and the State of Maine Ground Water Protection Law require each federally regulated underground oil storage facility to have a properly trained operator by August 8, 2012.

3. What facilities are covered by this training?

A UST facility that stores any of the following products must have a trained and certified operator.

- Motor fuel: gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, heating oil or diesel for an emergency generator or
- Marketing and distribution of product: any product that is distributed through retail or wholesale methods

4. Who must be trained?

The Federal Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act established three categories of operators which are identified as Class A, B and C.

A Class A operator is responsible for the facility overall, and may manage employees who are responsible for operating and maintaining the facility. The Class A operator ensures that employees are properly trained to understand leak detection and spill prevention equipment, ensure product compatibility with equipment and maintain appropriate records.

A Class B operator is responsible for operation, maintenance and record keeping at the facility on a day to day basis. The Class B operator must be familiar with leak detection and spill prevention systems, spill reporting and response, and record keeping requirements.

A Class C Operator must be trained to know what action to take in response to a leak alarm or an emergency such as a spill at the facility. The Class C operator notifies the Class A or B operator if such an event occurs.

Each facility must have a trained Class A, B and C operator. In Maine, Class A and B operators are combined into one category. Tank Smart was developed for these persons. In Maine, one person may serve as the Class A, B and C operator for a facility, if desired.

5. How does the training work?

You may access TankSmart on any internet-connected computer. By entering the registration number(s) for the facility or facilities you operate, you will automatically be provided with training modules that teach you about the equipment at your facility. For example, the training modules for the operator of tanks that are double walled with electronic leak detection differ from those for the operator of single walled tanks that use monthly reconciliation of daily inventory and an annual Statistical Inventory Analysis for leak detection. Or, if you prefer, you may view all of the training modules and train as a General Operator.

6. How can I prove that I have been trained?

You must be certified as trained by passing an on-line test for each applicable training module. You must obtain a score of at least 80% in order to pass the training. Once you achieve a passing score, you may print a certificate that shows you have been successfully trained. You are not required to view the modules before taking the test, but we recommend it. You may take the test for the required modules as many times as you need in order to be certified.

7. How long is my training certificate good for?

A certificate expires after two years, so you must retest in order to maintain compliance the training requirement.

8. What if the certified operator for my facility leaves?

Each facility must have a certified Class A/B operator at all times. If the certified operator for your facility leaves your employment, you must ensure that a new operator is trained and certified for your facility. If the Department of Environmental Protection determines that your facility is not in compliance with the applicable Rules for Underground Oil Storage Facilities, you may be required to obtain a new Operator Certificate.

9. How can I contact the TankSmart Program Manager?

There are two ways you can contact the TankSmart Program Manager:

1. By phone at (207) 441-3294, or
2. By email at Eileen.McCue@maine.gov

10. I was unable to print a copy of my training certificate even though I passed the test, how can I get a copy of my training certificate?

Contact the TankSmart Program Manager at (207) 441-3294 or Eileen.McCue@maine.gov and they will be able to mail or e-mail you a duplicate copy.

11. I am having trouble finding my registration number, what can I do?

If you have already attempted to locate your registration number through the Department's online Registered Tank Search and are unable to, contact the TankSmart Program Manager at the Department of Environmental Protection during normal business hours at (207) 441-3294 or Eileen.McCue@maine.gov.

12. I am the designated Class A/B Operator for multiple sites. Do I need to take the TankSmart training for each site?

You have two options:

1. You can take the training for each registered site; or
2. You can take the "General Operator" training option and become certified to be the designated Class A/B Operator for any underground oil storage facility in the State of Maine.